Your 2020 Granite Falls Historical Society Board:
John Scherrer, President
Ron Chew, Vice-president
Robin Sielk-Ingram, Secretary
Fred Cruger, Treasurer
Tom Bergan, member
Scott Bower, member
Regina Jones, member
Ted Peddy cord, member
Tim Quillen, member

We have reopened for regular Sunday hours from noon to 5:00 PM!

1. Back open, but need help - Now that we are open once again to the general public (social distancing and masking still encouraged), we have discovered that we need help to keep open! Our small but very reliable and dedicated group of volunteer docents has dwindled during the 23 weeks we were closed. As we look to the next months for scheduling, we realize that we need a few more helpers during our weekly openings on Sunday afternoons. No experience is necessary, and no long-term commitment is expected. Free “on-the-job” training is provided. Your help for one Sunday afternoon every month or so would make a huge impact on our ability to continue serving our community. Call Marcia Day at (360) 691-2378 for arrangements.

2. Centennial Trail history tour - On September 1, Tom and Fred finished Centennial Trail sign installations with the set in downtown Arlington. OnCell (now STORY) started the one-month parking for the Centennial Trail tour on August 29 for a 2-day head start on the scheduled start of September 1. Initial participation level was 50-150 sign scans per day for about 13 days . . . then the wildfire smoke hit for 5-6 days that basically stopped outdoor activities. Then, Sara Bruestle of The Herald published an article on the project, and participation soared again! Of course, the rains came fairly heavily on the 24th and 25th, again slowing things down. But, unfortunately, the County mowing crew attempted to remove the signs when mowing, then replace them when done . . . virtually impossible in the rocky ground . . . so a number of signs ended up missing, bent, or facing the wrong direction. But people enjoyed those that were left anyway. Participants could choose to complete a short survey that had three questions: “This was interesting?” yes/maybe/no “Add more factoids?” yes/maybe/no “Add to Whitehorse Trail?” yes/maybe/no Special thanks to Josh Gilbert of STORY for the great customer service to help us make this project happen. See the August newsletter, item 4, for more information.

3. Documenting the expansion project - Also to start the month, Tom finished compiling a brief history of the museum expansion efforts to make sure we include all expenses and project facets in our grant applications. This is available in a separate document.

4. Silverton-Waldheim partnering offer to USFS - Also on September 1, GFHS reinforced an offer to the U.S. Forest Service to participate in any “partnership” effort that might garner funds for the rehabilitation of the Silverton-Waldheim campground. No response yet, given the turmoil within the forest organization due to COVID.

5. CARES funds through CFSC - On September 4, we were notified that the Community Foundation of Snohomish County (CFSC) has been asked to disperse more than $2 million in CARES fund to Snohomish County nonprofits. CFSC’s rapid response and in-dept work with the COVID-19 relief fund made them the ideal entity to plan, coordinate and disburse the funds, as well as work with the nonprofits on their organizational capacity. The focus of the program was on nonprofits that served diverse and/or marginalized populations and have an annual operating budget of $500,000 or less. The process was sensitive to geographic diversity as well. GFHS did not fit their focus.

6. AASLH annual conference - Also on September 4, GFHS was granted a single full-access admission to the American Association of State and Local History 2020 Conference, to
be held online from 24-30 Sep. The workshops were viewed at the museum so more than one participant could make use of the single login. Tom and Fred started participation for the 8:00 A.M. Wednesday morning General Session kickoff. Between the two of them, they chose 12 session during the 7-day conference. The issues being discussed were heavily weighted toward issues of maintaining racial, gender, and generational equity in staffing, material, and in community relations. Many of the specific issues are more likely to need attention in very large, salaried organizations, but many of the principles could be applied to the smallest of organizations.

7. Darrington Historical Society - Also on September 4, we received a nice thank-you note from the Darrington Historical Society for hosting a large audio file on our site, designed to be accessed by their Facebook patrons. The audio is an interview with Elizabeth Poehlman as she tells about her book Darrington: Mining Town/Timber Town, which is now available for sale in the Darrington area, or on Amazon for those of us "down below". For more information, see July newsletter, item 2.b.

8. Barlow Pass details for virtual E&MC simulation - On September 5, we provided geographic details of the Barlow Pass area to Didrik Voss, who is working on the E&MC train simulation. Didrik has been working on this simulation for quite some time, always adding details when he can to the virtual train trip from Everett to Monte Cristo. It is quite a chore to “drive” a steam engine, and at steam-engine speeds, it takes a long time for the journey!

9. Indigenous artifacts along the Stilly? - On September 5, we were contacted by a local woman who believes she found a treasure trove of historical artifacts on the north bank of the Stilly. Tom and Fred scheduled a field trip with Gretchen Kaehler, Snohomish County Archaeologist, to visit the site on September 27. Fred and Gretchen were able to make the trip, and they viewed the artifacts found by the woman living on the Stilly. Unfortunately, all the artifacts turned out to be particularly attractive and unusual natural rocks, but not any were historic artifacts even though that area is known as a portage site for indigenous people canoeing between the Snohomish and Arlington areas.

10. What about student volunteers? - On September 8, we received an inquiry about volunteer opportunities for a Granite Falls High School student. The COVID closure makes things difficult, even though we have been able to coordinate student volunteers in the past.

11. Reimbursements for expenses - On September 12, we received $591 reimbursement from the County for expenses associated with the Centennial Trail sign tour. We are still awaiting a $1404 reimbursement for the Museum and Barn Quilt Tour. Helping with local history takes time, energy, and funding. Sometimes there is not enough time to wait for funding, so our monies are used to expedite events. We know that the County will eventually reimburse.

12. Documents collection offered - On September 15, we received a query from Eric Erickson, asking if we were interested in taking responsibility for the papers from his logging/railroad collection (two 4-drawer file cabinets), which came from Walt Taubeneck. We’ll need a multi-man trip to Anacortes to bring the stuff back, which was then scheduled for Monday, October 5 at our September monthly meeting.

13. Everett Herald's Sara Bruestle - On September 17, Tom and Fred spent time on the phone with Herald Features Editor Sara Bruestle, who started the task of writing an article about the Centennial Trail sign tour. Her article was on the front page of the second section of the newspaper on September 20th! We noticed a spike in trail sign activity, and we received a nice “thank you” note from Tom Teigen, the head of Snohomish County Parks & Recreation. The next day on September 21, we received an email saying the Centennial Trail signs weren’t working, but later another message saying “never mind”, all was OK. Then we got an enthusiastic “Thank You!” note from a happy user.

14. "Mountain Loop Tour" app again available - We finally received word on September 18 that the “Mountain Loop Tour” app was once again available at the Apple App Store! Unfortunately, the QR code on our brochures no longer points the user to the right URL, since that changed when they made GFHS the tour “owner”, instead of Snohomish County. We are finishing the process of updating the website and the brochure.

15. Tulalips and school districts agreement - On September 21, as part of a historical grant process by the Snohomish County Historical Preservation Commission, we received information that certain school districts (Lakewood, Granite Falls, Marysville, Everett, Mukilteo, Edmonds, Northshore, and Shoreline) have formal partnering agreements with the Tulalip Tribe, making collaborative activities much easier to implement. Good to know!
16. Historic Preservation Commission August Zoom meeting
On September 22nd, Tom and Fred attended the Zoom monthly meeting of the Snohomish County Historical Preservation Commission (HPC). The only agenda topics were an update on the Centennial Trail Tour, and approval of a grant to the Tulalip organization that was a replacement for an already-approved grant/project that was cancelled due to COVID.

17. Researching Lake Roesiger
On September 23, we received a call from a homeowner on the west shore of Lake Roesiger, looking for the history of their property. There are some signs of “industrial activity”, but the specifics are unknown. Dorothy Shroeder, author of Pilchuck Reflections, is helping research the answer. The homeowner decided to purchase a copy of Dorothy’s book and two copies of On the Trail of Richard Roesiger, the detailed diaries about the early settlers in the Lake Roesiger area written by Richard’s great-niece Monika Tuescher-Schramm! Each book is available for purchase at the museum.

18. September guests, docents, and helpers
As we prepare to establish our routines for regular Sunday afternoon openings, we look at some numbers to help us remember what things were like in pre-COVID days. Last year we had over 60 people at the museum in September from 7 different locations, all in Snohomish County. This included three special openings during the week. In 2020, after our first full month of openings, we had 25 guests who visited the museum, with 6 different docents helping throughout the month. Most visitors were from Snohomish County, but several came from Ellensburg, Puyallup, Spanaway, and Tukwila.

Our online visitors continue to amaze us. For the month of September, there were 217 total website viewers from all over the place! Just in Snohomish County there were 86 visitors, with another 74 from the rest of Washington State. More visitors logged in from 32 places in 19 other states, plus one visitor each from Canada, China, France, and India. The Granite Falls Museum can open its doors to the community with regular weekly hours (and special openings) because of our volunteers and docents. The docents are key players in this effort. We are very thankful for how they help. For the month of September these people helped as docents or volunteered in some way, several more than once: Ron Chew, Fred Cruger, Marcia Day, Tom Bergan, Regina Jones, Robin Ingraham, John Scherrer, Scott Bower, Tom Thorleifson, Bob Ingraham, Ted Peddy cord, Tim Quillen, and Norma Anderson.

19. October calendar
- 10/3 Saturday - Railroad and Reunion Days cancelled 😞
- 10/4 Sunday, noon - 5 PM, regular Museum hours
- 10/11 Sunday, noon - 5 PM, regular Museum hours
- 10/18 Sunday, noon - 5 PM, regular Museum hours
- 10/25 Sunday, noon - 5 PM, regular Museum hours
- 10/26 Museum meeting 7:00 PM Zoom or “GenCare” (waiting for GenCare to open for our meetings)
- 11/1 Sunday, noon - 5 PM, regular Museum hours

20. Board Meeting items of interest
- We held our monthly board meeting via Zoom, starting with our March meeting. Of interest are these four items:
  a. Expansion plans continue - It was agreed to move forward with construction by pursuing a construction loan rather than waiting. Contacting contractors to get on their schedule and coordinating with our foundation and our local bank are the first steps. Soliciting grants will continue, and it is hoped that donations of material and labor will help offset some of the costs. This has been a long but careful process, and we hope to see the project finished by next year. The museum desperately need more storage and work space.
  b. Board members sought - The Historical Society currently has 9 board members, each with a 3-year term that is staggered and limited to 2 terms. Each year we need to elect or re-elect 3 members for the following calendar year. We vote this November for the 2021 calendar year. The board meets the last Monday of each month, with meetings usually lasting less than an hour. There are no requirements, but board members tend to help as docents and volunteers whenever their health and personal schedules allow. We have always had enough people to help, but we are looking for those who would have a fresh view/perspective. Email or leave a voicemail if you are interested, or contact a current member.
  c. New Board position approved for a student - A 10th board position was adopted at the September meeting for a student. This would be a full-voting position for a high school or college student, but would only be different by being a one-year term instead of 3 years. It could be renewed one time, just like the other board members. The time involved with board responsibilities would also be an opportunity to earn
quality community volunteer hours. Volunteering for our local, state, and national award-winning museum would look good on a resume or a college application. If you are interested, contact one of the board members, send an email, or leave a voicemail - see the contact info on the newsletter header on page 1.

•Docent team needs more members - As mentioned in item #18, we need more docents! In this last year the docent ranks have been dimished by 9 people, leaving the rest of us scrambling to fill the schedule for Sunday afternoons. All it takes is one Sunday every 2-4 months, with free on-site training with one of our experienced docents. It's a great opportunity to serve your community, meet some wonderful people, and learn about our area's history. Where else can you chat with people from around the state and around the country in one afternoon? Why not give it a try? Call or email: 360.691.2603 info@gfhistory.org

21. A Short Story, part 1

Cedar
by Carl Hemstrom, GFHS Class of 1938

Much has been written about the prosperity of the early settlers; how they hacked a clearing out of the wilderness and made a home.

The Homestead Act of 1862 was passed with this in mind. Sadly, in the Pacific Northwest, land was opened for homestead that in no way was suitable for raising crops so a family could survive, so many homesteaders struggled along until the land was theirs and then sold to timber investors, usually from the East. Most had prime virgin forests which were harvested 30 to 40 years later.

Cedar was the one item that put money in their pockets. Besides the huge cedar trees standing in the forest, there were the windfalls---huge logs laying everywhere. Cedar wood has an oil in it that keeps it from rotting. Therefore these windfalls lay for years and years. A log that I cut into chunks about what a man could handle. They were split into blocks 52-54 inches long. Then they were split into chunks about what a man could handle. They were then hauled by sled on a skid-road to water. A skid-road was small logs laid crosswise on the road about every 6 feet to keep the sled with at least 1/2 cord of bolts on an even keel. Then it was usually dumped into water, a lake or stream to the mill. The bolts were driven and guided as they floated down stream. A man carried a pike pole, a long slim pole with a spike sticking out of the end and a short hook just behind it to hook onto lodged bolts.

The driver wore long heavy woolen underwear and socks and wore corked boots--correct English would be caulked boots, but no way were they called that. He wore a heavy hickory shirt with the tails staggered off over the suspenders of his pants. His pants were called tin pants, a heavy canvas-like material with double thickness in front. They were cut off to come to only the top of his boots. They were stiff enough that a person could lift his leg high with no binding and they could be stood up in a corner at night. Corked boots were 14-16 inches high with sharp nails embedded in the very heavy soles. This outfit made up the safest clothing to wade in the cold, swift-rushing stream. One also wore a waist-length slicker coat made of the same material as the tin pants. If a man slipped and fell, his pike pole steadied him. Being wet all the time, the wool underwear was warm and with no shirt tails so a man could dry out with his body heat. It was cold, wet, and dangerous work. At times, ice would form on your pike pole, making it necessary to dip it in the water which was warmer than the air to thaw the ice. Monkey face gloves and a slicker hat finished out the outfit. Smoking was impossible so a jaw full of snooze had to suffice. My father told me of chewing a white snooze that made him shaky and he had to quit it.

He told me that the cedar timber, where he was cutting bolts, was so good that he could cut about 4 cords a day with no problem. At one dollar a cord, $4.00 was a very good wage in 1909.

In the shingle mill the bolts were cut into 16-inch blocks, then run through the shingle saw. The sawyers set their saws to go as fast as possible, and in taking the shingle off the saw--fingers were endangered, so old sawyers would have fingers only up to the first joint. (…to be continued…)

22. Halloween scarecrows! - Get ready for Halloween! This is from our Granite Falls Chamber of Commerce:

![Halloween Scarecrow Contest](image)

**Frightening Falls Scarecrow Contest**

October 30th, 2020

The Granite Falls Chamber of Commerce is resurrecting the annual town Scarecrow Contest! Any business within city limits is eligible to enter a homemade, "person-sized" scarecrow (no store-bought or inflatables). No storefront! No problem! We have a place for yours too! The funnier and more creative, the better—but not too scary!

Winner can choose between a ‘21-’22 Chamber Gold Sponsorship ($1,000 value) or $500 in gift cards from local businesses (Ace, IGA, Playa, Hanky Pies, and Buzz Inn). Judging will take place Friday, October 30th and the winner will be announced on Halloween! Please send: Entry title, location and your business/contact info, and any questions to marketing@granitefallswa.com.

Let's bring some holiday fun to our town this fall!

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And from the Everett Public Library, their Northwest Room posted a video online about LOSCHO’s historical mapping system of Snohomish County. Fred was the presenter for this, and you can view it by clicking here.

Can't stop by in person? Locals can also visit us online! [http://www.GFhistory.org](http://www.GFhistory.org) Facebook Research Recent newsletters